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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman House Energy and Commerce Committee 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations 316 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Stupak:

I am writing to express my great concern regarding recent reports by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that raw materials used to make children's cold medications were contaminated with bacteria leading to the recall of 43 different Johnson & Johnson products.

The FDA report suggested raw material with "known contamination with gram negative organisms" were used to manufacture several finished lots of children's and infant's Tylenol drug products.

In addition, the report also cited inadequate quality-control procedures at the McNeil Consumer Healthcare plant in Fort Washington, Pa., where the medicines were made. The plant has subsequently been closed by the company indefinitely.

While I am pleased to see the FDA recalled these products, the inadequacy of quality controls at the manufacturing plants and the ever-increasing number of recalls is completely unacceptable to me and very alarming for consumers.

Therefore, I am writing to request a Congressional hearing in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations to allow our committee to identify the cause of these contaminated materials, the need for better quality control procedures, and the FDA's available resources and response concerning this matter.

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221 West Main Street Prescott, AR 71857 (870) 887-6787 (870) 887-6799 Fax The health and safety of our nation's consumers, especially our children, is of the utmost importance to me and I am hopeful this hearing will provide us with answers regarding the safety standards of drug manufacturers, the role of the FDA in ensuring drug safety, and what legislative actions are needed to better protect our children.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Ross